

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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| REPORTING OFFICE KNOXVILLE | OFFICE OF ORIGIN WASHINGTON FIELD | DATE 10/5/56 | INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 8/21, 26, 27, 29-31; 9/1, 3, 4, 6, 10-13, 17, 18, 20, 24-30; 10/1/56 |
| TITLE OF CASE WHITE CITIZENS' COUNCILS OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AKA. | | REPORT MADE BY HERBERT E. SHRIDER | TYPED BY epi |
| | | CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - X | |

SYNOPSIS:

On 8/26/56, JOHN KASPER, Executive Secretary, 'Seaboard White Citizens' Councils (WCC), Washington, D. C., appeared Clinton, Tennessee, advocating a boycott of Clinton High School because twelve Negro students had been registered; organized students to picket; and was arrested on local charge of "inciting to riot". Above charge dismissed 8/28/56, due to insufficient evidence. KASPER continued urging people to rebel against integration. On 8/29/56, U. S. District Judge, ROBERT L. TAYLOR, issued restraining order prohibiting KASPER and five named residents of Anderson County from further interfering with integration of Clinton High School. On 8/30/56, KASPER arrested by U. S. Marshal, Knoxville, on contempt charge. On 8/31/56, he was found guilty of contempt in U. S. District Court and was sentenced to serve one year, custody of the Attorney General. Prior to his arrest KASPER urged persons assembled at Clinton to join WCC. Following KASPER's arrest ASA "ACE" CARTER, Executive Secretary, Alabama Citizens' Council, spoke at Clinton. Both were successful in enlisting new members for WCC. On 9/1/56 100 Tennessee Highway Patrolmen, and on 9/2/56, 600 National Guardsmen dispatched to Clinton to maintain order. On 9/7/56, KASPER released under \$10,000 bond, pending the appeal of his conviction to the Sixth Circuit.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 8-29-83 BY SP7MAC/PMC

| | | | |
|---|----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| APPROVED <i>[Signature]</i> | SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE | DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW | |
| COPIES MADE: 8 - Bureau (100-423395)(RM) 1 - ONI, Charleston, S. C. (RM) 1 - G2, Fort McPherson, Ga. (RM) 1 - OSI, Maxwell AFB, Alabama (RM) 1 - Birmingham (105-375)(INFO)(RM) 6 - Washington Field (100-33226)(RM) 6 - Knoxville (105-122) | | 100 - 423395 - 211 | RECORDED-42 |
| | | 14 OCT 9 1956 | INDEXED-42 |
| | | EX-116 | |

1 cc R.E. Wick
10/8/56

2 OCT 12 1956

COPIES DESTROYED

AGENCY RAB(6-6), 6-2, ONI, OSI, Secret Service
REQ. REC'D
DATE FORW. 10-8-56
HOW FORW. R/S
BY C.E. Williams

211 OCT 28 1963

Clinton WCC reportedly meeting each Saturday night in closed sessions, reportedly attended by approximately 75 persons. WILLARD TILL, Clinton, Route 2, Oak Ridge employee, is Executive Secretary WCC at Clinton. On 9/24/56, KASPER was arrested by Anderson County Sheriff on local sedition charge, was released same date under \$2000 bond. On 9/23/56 and 9/30/56, CARTER and KASPER addressed public, publicized meetings in Knox County, Tennessee, in attempt to organize WCC in Knox County.

- P - *lee SJ*

DETAILS:

As reported elsewhere in this report, United States District Judge, ROBERT L. TAYLOR, on January 4, 1956, at Knoxville, issued an order requiring D. J. BRITTAIN, Principal of the Clinton, Tennessee, High School, and the Anderson County Board of Education to register in the Clinton High School any qualified Negroes who sought admittance at the beginning of the 1956-57 school term.

AT CLINTON, TENNESSEE

On August 24, 1956, D. J. BRITTAIN advised that twelve Negroes had been registered at Clinton High School; that he had experienced no difficulty as a result of those registrations, and that the first day of school would be August 27, 1956.

AT KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

On August 26, 1956, WALTER FISCHER, Assistant Attorney General, 19th Judicial District, telephonically advised Special Agent RUSSELL L. DAGLEY that one JOHN KASPER, Executive Secretary, Seaboard White Citizens' Councils, 1246 Wisconsin Avenue, Southwest, Washington, D. C. was at that time in Clinton, distributing circulars to students and advocating the boycott of the Clinton High School which was scheduled to open the following morning in a desegregated condition.

On the same date FISCHER was telephonically contacted by the reporting Agent, at which time FISCHER stated that he had received his information from HORACE WELLS, publisher of the Clinton Courier, and that WELLS was in possession of a circular which indicated that it was KASPER's intention to force the resignation of Principal BRITTAIN since he was under a court order to admit Negroes to the Clinton High School. FISCHER advised that WELLS stated that the apparent purpose of the circular was to urge the people to remove from office anyone who was under such a court order.

Mr. FISCHER later telephonically advised that he had caused the issuance of a warrant charging KASPER with vagrancy and inciting to riot, and that KASPER had been arrested and was, at that time, confined in the Clinton City Jail under \$5000 bond.

AT CLINTON, TENNESSEE

On August 27, 1956, CLYDE RIDENOUR, member of the Clinton Police Department, advised that KASPER was still in jail and that from ten to twelve students of the Clinton High School were parading in front of the school and carrying placards on which were written slogans to the effect that the students of Clinton High School would not attend the same school which Negroes attended. RIDENOUR advised that the twelve registered Negroes were in attendance at the school and that no violence had occurred but that a crowd of approximately two hundred persons was congregated in the vicinity of the school. RIDENOUR advised that during the night some person had distributed literature in the Clinton area, urging people to rebel against having their school integrated.

On August 28, 1956, PAUL HORTON, City Recorder, advised that KASPER had been released on that date by Trial Justice Judge, J. LEON ELKINS, who ruled that the city did not present sufficient evidence to hold KASPER on the vagrancy and inciting to riot warrant. HORTON stated that picketing of the High School was continuing by the students, that approximately fifty percent of the anticipated seven hundred students were in attendance, and that the enrolled colored students were continuing to attend the school. Mr. HORTON advised that KASPER had addressed a group of approximately two hundred persons prior to his arrest and had urged these persons to join the White Citizens' Councils (hereinafter referred to as WCC), as a means of fighting integration of their school.

On August 29, 1956, CLYDE RIDENOUR advised that on that date KASPER had led a group of approximately one hundred persons to the door of the Clinton High School and would have entered the school had he not been prevented by members of the Clinton Police Department. He stated that KASPER demanded an audience with the principal and that Mr. BRITTAIN met KASPER at the door. He stated that KASPER demanded that BRITTAIN either exclude the Negroes from the school or resign. RIDENOUR stated that Mr. BRITTAIN advised KASPER that he was under a court order to admit Negroes and that he had no choice but to abide by that order.

On August 29, 1956, Deputy United States Marshal WILLIAM PETREE advised that at approximately 8:00 p.m., United States Marshal FRANK QUARLES had interrupted KASPER while KASPER was addressing a crowd of approxi-

mately 200 persons from the courthouse steps in Clinton, had escorted KASPER into the courthouse and had then read to KASPER a restraining order issued by United States District Judge ROBERT L. TAYLOR on that date at Knoxville, and which prohibited KASPER from interfering with integration of the Clinton High School. He advised that KASPER had been given a copy of the restraining order and had returned to the steps of the courthouse and read the order to the assembled people. PETREE advised that KASPER then advised the crowd that he had no intention of abiding by the provisions of the order and urged the people to also ignore it.

Mr. PETREE advised that following the above remarks by KASPER, Mr. QUARLES and several attorneys from Clinton, had returned to Knoxville to advise Judge TAYLOR concerning KASPER's remarks and to obtain the necessary papers to immediately take KASPER into custody on a charge of contempt.

AT KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

On August 30, 1956, United States Attorney JOHN C. CRAWFORD, JR., explained that on January 4, 1956, District Judge ROBERT L. TAYLOR had issued an order to authorities at Clinton, Tennessee, requiring the principal of the Clinton High School and the members of the Anderson County Board of Education to admit any qualified Negroes to that school at the beginning of the 1956-57 session.

Mr. CRAWFORD advised that on August 29, 1956, Judge TAYLOR had decided not to cause KASPER's arrest on that night, but had decided to wait and have the contempt citation served on KASPER when he appeared in the United States District Court on August 30, 1956, as the restraining order required. Mr. CRAWFORD advised that the following persons, in addition to KASPER, all of whom are residents of Anderson County, Tennessee, were named in the restraining order:

~~LEO BOLTON~~
~~TOM CARTER~~
~~MABEL CURRIER~~
~~TED HANKINS~~
~~MAX STILES~~

Mr. CRAWFORD advised that KASPER was arrested by the United States Marshal on August 30, 1956, when he appeared in court and that the hearing on the restraining order and contempt charge would not be completed until August 31, 1956. He stated that KASPER had been confined in the Knox County Jail in lieu of payment of \$10,000 bond, on the night of August 30, 1956.

On August 31, 1956, United States Attorney JOHN C. CRAWFORD, JR., advised that Judge TAYLOR had found KASPER guilty of contempt and had sentenced him to one year in the custody of the Attorney General. He stated that KASPER's attorney had immediately advised that the conviction would be appealed to the Sixth Circuit and that Judge TAYLOR would rule on September 6, 1956, as to whether or not KASPER would be released on bond, pending results of the appeal.

AT CLINTON, TENNESSEE

On September 1, 1956, CLYDE RIDENOUR advised that on the night of August 31, 1956, ASA CARTER, whom he stated was connected with the WCC of Alabama, spoke to a crowd of around fifteen hundred persons at the Clinton Courthouse. RIDENOUR advised that CARTER berated local law enforcement officials, persons holding local political offices, and talked at length concerning the historical supremacy of the white race. He stated that CARTER claimed that mongrelization of the races is an inevitable result of school integration. RIDENOUR advised that CARTER's talk was terminated unexpectedly when a rumor was spread through the crowd that some United States Marshals were present for the purpose of arresting CARTER. He advised that prior to CARTER's departure, however, CARTER urged those present to join the WCC as a means of fighting integration. RIDENOUR advised that KASPER and CARTER had pointed out that membership dues in the WCC are \$3.00 per year and that this \$3.00 would enable the WCC to extend its work and thereby become more effective. RIDENOUR pointed out that a table was provided near the courthouse steps where anyone interested could join the WCC, and RIDENOUR stated that some persons joined on each of the nights when CARTER and KASPER spoke. He advised that it was impossible for him to estimate the number of persons who joined because of the confusion of the crowd and the number of persons crowded around the steps and the table.

On September 2, 1956, RIDENOUR advised that on September 1, 1956, a crowd which he believed was developing into a mob, gathered in Clinton and would have gotten beyond control of the eight policemen and forty auxiliary policemen had not one hundred State Highway Patrolmen arrived at the appropriate time. He advised that following the arrival of the patrolmen, JACK KERSHAW, an attorney from Nashville and Executive Secretary of the Tennessee Federation for Constitutional Government, addressed a crowd of around fifteen hundred persons. He stated that KERSHAW spoke through a public address system mounted on a car parked in front of the courthouse; that he urged the people to organize; that he deplored the use of violence; pointed out that Tennessee law forbids mixing of races in schools, and urged that those present not violate this law by sending their children to a school which permitted mixing of the races.

On September 3, 1956, CLYDE RIDENOUR advised that at noon on September 2, 1956, approximately six hundred National Guardsmen were moved into Clinton. He stated that on September 2, 1956, a group of anti-integration forces met in a closed session in a school yard three miles east of Clinton. He stated that any persons whom those assembled felt were not sympathetic with their cause were excluded and it was RIDENOUR's opinion that this meeting set the pattern for future WCC meetings.

On September 6, 1956, PAUL HORTON, City Recorder, advised that the City Council had passed an ordinance prohibiting any outdoor meetings in Clinton unless permission for such a meeting were obtained at least forty-eight hours prior to the meeting, from the City Recorder. He advised that he would issue such a permit only on unanimous consent of the City Council and that he could safely state that no such permit would be granted. In addition, he advised that he had contacted the persons in charge of the few buildings in Clinton which would accommodate an indoor meeting and had been assured that the anti-integration forces would not be given permission to use any of these facilities.

Mr. HORTON advised that at a prior meeting on the courthouse lawn, he believes it was on August 30, 1956, a group of persons met and selected WILLARD H. TILL as Executive Secretary of the Clinton WCC. He stated that TILL resides on Route 2, Clinton, is employed at the Y-12 area of Oak Ridge, and has, in so far as he knows, never been involved in any trouble or been considered a trouble maker.

AT KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

On September 6, 1956, United States Attorney JOHN C. CRAWFORD, JR., advised that on that date United States District Judge ROBERT L. TAYLOR had ruled that he would release KASPER under \$10,000 bond, pending a ruling on KASPER's appeal by the Sixth Circuit Court.

On September 7, 1956, Mr. CRAWFORD stated that on that date KASPER was released under \$10,000 bond. He advised that Mr. and Mrs. CLYDE COOK and Mr. and Mrs. CLYDE COX, all of Clinton, had signed KASPER's bond.

AT CLINTON, TENNESSEE

On September 10, 1956, CLYDE RIDENOUR advised that CLYDE COOK resides at Clinton, Route 1, that he is employed as a fire fighter in the Y-12 area of Oak Ridge, and that he believes COOK is financial secretary of the local WCC.

At that time RIDENOUR stated that the anti-integration faction, which he feels is synonymous with the WCC, is meeting in a tent on the CLYDE COOK property. He stated that COOK's property is located on Highway 61, about two miles east of Clinton. He advised that these meetings are not open to the public and he estimated that approximately twenty-five men regularly attend the meetings.

On September 18, 1956, Anderson County Sheriff, GLAD WOODWARD, advised that the local WCC is meeting each Saturday night at the home of CLYDE COOK. He stated that these meetings are closed and are attended by approximately seventy-five persons.

On September 25, 1956, Sheriff WOODWARD and CLYDE RIDENOUR advised that there has been no activity in the Clinton area attributable to the WCC other than the meetings mentioned above.

RIDENOUR stated that he has received information that the WCC is copying a list of the names and addresses of persons registered to vote in Anderson County.

Both RIDENOUR and WOODWARD advised that there has been some talk of the formation of a Ku Klux Klan chapter in the Clinton area. RIDENOUR stated that he has heard that L. J. BRANTLEY, a merchant who resides on Route 4 in South Clinton, has been distributing application forms for the Klan. Neither WOODWARD nor RIDENOUR was in possession of any information indicating infiltration of the WCC by the Ku Klux Klan. Each felt, however, that the possibility of such infiltration exists, due to the similar nature of the organizations.

The Ku Klux Klan has been cited by the Attorney General pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

On September 25, 1956, MARJORIE BICE, Deputy, Anderson County Registration Clerk, advised that arrangements had been made for a Mrs. J. WARREN COWARD, Oliver Springs Pike, to copy the names and addresses of persons registered to vote in Anderson County. She stated that the names of approximately one thousand of the thirty thousand registered voters had been copied. She stated that Mrs. COWARD has discontinued her work and had not indicated whether or not she intended to complete it.

On September 24, 1956, CLYDE RIDENOUR advised Special Agent THEODORE A. SANDERS that at approximately 8:00 p.m. on that date Anderson County Sheriff GLAD WOODWARD had arrested JOHN KASPER at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. He advised that the arrest was based on an indictment returned previously by an Anderson County Grand Jury which charged KASPER with sedition.

RIDENOUR stated that KASPER had been released on the same date under \$2000 bond.

On September 25, 1956, Sheriff WOODWARD advised the reporting Agent that KASPER had been arraigned that date before Circuit Judge D. L. HUTSON, had requested time to prepare his defense and accepted November 5, 1956, as a trial date.

On the same date Sheriff WOODWARD advised that when he arrested KASPER at Oak Ridge, KASPER requested to see the warrant and he had advised KASPER that he did not have the warrant in his possession. He stated that KASPER had then inquired as to the charge and had been informed that the charge was sedition. He advised that KASPER peacefully accompanied him approximately seventy-five yards from the point of the arrest to the Sheriff's car but had pulled away from the Sheriff as they approached the car. He advised that he ran after KASPER around several parked cars and back to the place where the arrest had been made. He stated that Mr. CAMPBELL, a constable, who was not acquainted with KASPER, observed KASPER running from him and stopped KASPER. He stated that KASPER then struck CAMPBELL several times across the back and head before CAMPBELL was able to subdue him. Sheriff WOODWARD advised that he had not filed any additional charges as a result of the resisting arrest attempt.

An article appeared in the Knoxville Journal on September 20, 1956, indicating that KASPER planned on speaking in Knoxville the following Sunday (September 23, 1956), and that Knoxville Mayor, JACK DANCE, had indicated that KASPER would be in violation of a city ordinance if he attempted to speak in Knoxville. This article indicated that KASPER had expressed his intention to speak in spite of the Mayor's warning.

An article appearing in the Knoxville News-Sentinel on September 20, 1956, indicated that KASPER planned to speak on September 23, 1956, in a public park in Fountain City (a suburb of Knoxville) and that ninety-seven year old Judge JOHN W. GREEN, Chairman of the Fountain City Park Board, expressed his intention to prohibit the meeting at the park.

An article by-lined JULIAN GRANGER, in the September 24, 1956, edition of the Knoxville News-Sentinel describes a meeting which took place on the shoulder of the highway near the Fountain City Park on September 23, 1956. According to this article the meeting started at approximately 4:20 p.m. and took place in a light rain. Both ASA CARTER and JOHN KASPER spoke to approximately seventy-five persons who were assembled. Both accused the politicians of mongrelization, of denying them their rights

to freedom of speech and free assembly, and recommended the WCC as the organization to regain those rights. CARTER stated "one hundred million Federal troupes cannot integrate me", and attacked individual members of the United States Supreme Court. CARTER claimed that Communists are "trying to create one religion - one God" and the Republican and Democratic Parties "eventually will amalgamate into one party called Communist".

Fountain City contractor LEE R. FOSTER, Cedar Heights drive, was singled out by KASPER as a person who has "stuck his neck out" to assist in the formation of the WCC in Knoxville. He urged persons to contact FOSTER in regard to membership in the WCC.

AT CLINTON, TENNESSEE

On September 27, 1956, Sheriff GLAD WOODWARD advised that at approximately 10:15 p.m. the previous night, the Negro section of Clinton was rocked by an explosion. He advised that his investigation indicates that the explosion was caused by the detonation of two beer cans into which had been packed approximately six sticks of crumbled dynamite and wrapped with wet newspaper. He advised that the explosion occurred approximately seventy-five yards from the nearest house and was obviously not intended to damage property or injure anyone. He expressed the opinion, however, that it was the work of members of the WCC and was perhaps indicative of what they might do in the future to prevent continued integration of the Clinton High School.

On September 28, 1956, Sheriff WOODWARD advised that he had been informed that a WCC meeting would be held the following night at the home of CLYDE COOK. On September 29, 1956, Agents observed that approximately sixty cars were parked on COOK's property and that a meeting was in progress in a large tent which had been erected on COOK's property approximately one hundred yards from the highway.

On September 30, 1956, Confidential Informant Knoxville T-1, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that on that date ASA CARTER and JOHN KASPER addressed a crowd of persons who had assembled on the DIEHL farm, approximately five miles north of Knoxville. He advised that the meeting was open and had been publicized. He estimated that in excess of one thousand persons were present. T-1 stated that CARTER was introduced by JAMES DODRILL, Route 14, Ellis Road, Knoxville. T-1 stated that CARTER's talk was similar to what was reported as his talk of the previous Sunday and that he discussed the organization and accomplishments of the Alabama Citizens Council, that he stressed the accomplishments of the white race throughout history and the collapse of civilizations after members of the colored race were imported. He again attacked individual members of

the United States Supreme Court as being Communistic in their actions and accused both major political parties of traveling in the direction of Communism. He urged that the only prevention was to organize and to obtain the desired ends through pressure and political activity, including nominating and electing public officials from the ranks of the WCC.

T-1 stated that both KASPER and CARTER urged those present to join the WCC and to obtain information about the WCC from JAMES DODRILL or LEE R. FOSTER.

T-1 advised that neither KASPER nor CARTER mentioned the Federal Court action pending against KASPER or the integration of the Clinton High School.

T-1 recognized four former Ku Klux Klan members at this meeting. He stated that two of these men were former officials of the Knoxville Ku Klux Klan chapter. He stated that one of these officials made the statement that he did not intend to join the WCC and that he was in favor of reorganizing the Ku Klux Klan in Knoxville before the WCC took over the work which the Ku Klux Klan should be doing.

An Agent who attended the meeting recalls that JOHN KASPER claimed to have been misquoted in newspaper articles concerning some of his recent talks in the State of Alabama, in which he reportedly advocated taking over local governments by force. He stated that what he said and what he meant was that it would be necessary for the persons favoring segregation to use political means to control local government.

The Agent in attendance recalls that KASPER requested those present who had joined the WCC to remain after the meeting and observed that approximately twenty persons remained.

- P -

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

One copy of this report has been designated for Birmingham inasmuch as it reflects the activities of ASA CARTER in the Knoxville Division.

On September 26, 1956, United States Attorney JOHN C. CRAWFORD, JR., advised that he was seriously considering requesting District Judge ROBERT L. TAYLOR to revoke KASPER's bond. He requested the Knoxville Office to determine the identities of any persons who would be capable of and willing to testify to the statements reportedly made by KASPER and which appeared as a United Press release in the Knoxville News-Sentinel on September 14, 1956. Accordingly the Birmingham Office was requested by teletype on September 26, 1956, to furnish this information.

By teletype September 27, 1956, the Birmingham Office advised that detectives HAROLD FINCHER and J. B. JONES, both of the Birmingham Police Department, are willing to testify that they recall KASPER making several remarks which they believe border on violation of the treason statute. The detectives recalled that KASPER said he wanted trouble, needed more rabble rousers and that some people may die before the issue of integration is settled. In addition, Birmingham reported that ERNEST HARDIN, photographer for the Birmingham News, can testify to direct quotations of KASPER as follows: "We now have this battle joined. There is no question about it. The Supreme Court is enforcing a manner of life that we do not want and will not have. We believe that total collapse of law and order is at hand. We must use every means to stop the niggers, every means. Some of us may die before this thing is over. We believe in exposing and cutting out your next door neighbor if he is an integrationist. We are going to deal with the National Guard when they get here".

Mr. CRAWFORD advised that he expects to use not only the material quoted above, but also the facts concerning KASPER's resisting arrest at Oak Ridge on September 24, 1956, as a basis for his revocation request.

No copies of this report have been designated for the United States Attorney at Knoxville, however, he and United States District Judge ROBERT L. TAYLOR are being kept currently advised of all pertinent information concerning KASPER and his activities. The information concerning the request of the U. S. Attorney for investigation to assist in his revocation order was not included in the details of this report because of the dissemination to be afforded this report on a local level.

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

KX 105-122

Six copies of this report have been designated for Knoxville in order that copies will be available for forwarding to other offices in the event it later becomes desirable to do so.

INFORMANTS

| <u>Identity of Source</u> | <u>Agent to Whom Furnished</u> | <u>File Where Located</u> |
|--|--------------------------------|--|
| T-1: PSI | SA THEODORE A. SANDERS | |

b6
b7C
b7D

Careful consideration has been given to each source concealed and T symbols were utilized in this report only in those instances where the identity of the source must be concealed.

LEADS

THE KNOXVILLE DIVISION

At Knoxville, Tennessee, will follow and report the activities of the WCC at Clinton and Knoxville.

The Agents who observed the sixty cars and recorded the license numbers of some of these cars present at the WCC meeting at Clinton, Tennessee, on the night of September 29, 1956, were Special Agents JACK K. MURPHREE and HERBERT E. SHRIDER.

The Agent in attendance at the meeting in Knox County on September 30, 1956, was SA HERBERT E. SHRIDER.

REFERENCES

Knoxville telcalls to the Bureau 8/26/56.
Knoxville teletypes to the Bureau 8/27,29,30,31;
9/1,8,10,12,23,25,26,27,30; 10/1/56.
Knoxville airtels to the Bureau 9/3,5,26/56.
Bureau teletypes to Knoxville 8/31/56 and 9/8/56.

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

cc Liaison Section
Mr. Williams

RECORDED-82

100-423395 - 212

EX-110

Date: October 8, 1956
To: Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence
Department of the Army
The Pentagon
Washington 25, D. C.

Attention: Chief, Security Division

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: WHITE CITIZENS' COUNCILS OF
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8-29-83 BY SP7MAC/PMC

Reference is made to previous communications
in which you were furnished information concerning
John Kasper, executive secretary of the captioned
organization.

For your additional information Kasper,
on the afternoon of October 4, 1956, addressed
approximately fifty persons in Oliver Springs,
Tennessee. He stated he would depart immediately
following the meeting for Alabama and Florida to
address the "Ku Klux Klan"; however, he did not
specify where this address was to be held. Kasper
said he intended to travel from Florida to Washington, D. C.,
and would return to eastern Tennessee in approximately
three weeks to spend the winter. Kasper urged those
present to elect candidates of their choice in local
offices. He made no remarks advocating force or
violence and stressed the accomplishment of goals by
legal means. He remarked that he came to Clinton,
Tennessee, to stop integration but cannot now take a
"direct" part since he is under a Federal restraining
injunction. Kasper added that James Bodrill, Knoxville,
Tennessee, would assist citizens in forming their councils.

COMM - FBI
100-423395

Tolson _____
Nichols _____
Boardman _____
Belmont _____
Mason _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Nease _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

2cc SAC, Knoxville (See note page 2)

CFWdlj

(10)

(See note on yellow page 2)

cc Assistant Attorney General
William E. Tompkins

(By Form 0-6, same date)

BY COURIER SVC.
OCT 8
COMM - FBI

81 OCT 15 1956

Letter to Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence
Department of the Army

Any additional pertinent information received
relative to this matter will be furnished you promptly.

cc Director of Naval Intelligence
Department of the Navy
The Pentagon
Washington 25, D. C.

cc Director of Special Investigations
The Inspector General
Department of the Air Force
Building Tempo E
4th and Adams Drive, S. W.
Washington, D. C.

BY COURIER SERVICE

ATTENTION SAC, KNOXVILLE:

Reurtel dated October 4, 1956.

In future communications set forth the source
of information and statement regarding reliability of
source.

NOTE ON YELLOW:

Bufiles contain no record of James Dodrill.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

OCT 5 1956

TELETYPE

FBI KNOXVILLE

10-4-56

11-39 PM EST

AJC

DIRECTOR, FBI AND SAC-S WFO AND BIRMINGHAM URGENT

WHITE CITIZENS COUNCILS OF D. C., AKA, IS - X. THIS EVENING, JOHN KASPER, ADDRESSING APPROXIMATELY FIFTY PERSONS, OLIVER SPRINGS, TENN., STATED HE WOULD DEPART IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MEETING FOR ALABAMA AND FLORIDA, TO ADDRESS KKK, EXACT LOCATIONS NOT SPECIFIED. HE ADVISED HE INTENDED TO TRAVEL FROM FLORIDA TO WASHINGTON, D.C., AND RETURN TO EAST TENN., IN APPROXIMATELY THREE WEEKS TO SPEND WINTER. PURPOSE OF MEETING, OLIVER SPRINGS, TO ORGANIZE CITIZENS COUNCIL. KASPER URGED LISTENERS TO ELECT CANDIDATES OF THEIR CHOICE IN LOCAL OFFICES. HE MADE NO REMARKS ADVOCATING FORCE OR VIOLENCE. HE STRESSED ACCOMPLISHING GOALS BY LEGAL MEANS. KASPER REMARKED HE CAME TO CLINTON TO STOP INTEGRATION BUT CANNOT NOW TAKE "DIRECT" PART SINCE HE IS UNDER FEDERAL RESTRAINING INJUNCTION. HE ADDED JAMES DODRILL, KNOXVILLE, WOULD ASSIST CITIZENS IN FORMING THEIR COUNCILS. WHILE IN EAST TENN., KASPER DRIVING FIFTY-THREE RED PLYMOUTH CONVERTIBLE, FIFTYSIX D.C. TAGS AX FIVE NINE TWO SEVEN

ALDEN

END

ACK IN ORD PLS

WA 12-41 AM OK FBI WA ELR

BH OK FBI BH HEP

TU DISC

BUREAU ADVISED

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8-29-83 BY SP7MAC/PMC

RECORDED-82

OCT 9 1956

EX-110

cc - [signature]

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Trotter
Mr. Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy

WILSON

100-423395-212

extra 4/10/56
for [unclear]
10/18/56
[unclear]

F B I

Date: 10/19/56

Transmit the following message via AIRTELAIR MAIL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

From SAC, KNOXVILLE

To: DIRECTOR, FBI AND SAC BIRMINGHAM

AIRTELWHITE CITIZENS COUNCILS OF
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

IS - X

RE: KX tel. 9/26/56; and BH tel. 9/27/56.

USA, KX, advised he received letter from WALTER E. FISHER, Assistant State Attorney General, Clinton, Tenn., inquiring as to the possible availability of any Federal Agents who might testify concerning statements made by JOHN KASPER on Sept. 13, last, at Birmingham for testimony in local State action against KASPER at Clinton on Nov. 5.

USA, KX, advised he did not now contemplate any action against KASPER re revocation of bond and, therefore, no contemplation of use of possible witnesses ERNEST HARDIN, Detectives HAROLD FINCHER and J. B. JONES, all Birmingham, all having expressed willingness to testify in USDC as set forth in BH tel. to Director, WFO and KX, 9/27/56.

USA, KX, intends to advise Asst. AG FISHER that so far as he knows there are no Federal Agents available for testifying; however, USA wondered if any of persons previously mentioned as possible witnesses by BY might be willing and available for testifying in State Court against KASPER.

UACB, BH, consider the advisability of contacting HARDIN, FINCHER and JONES. If such contacts feasible, will contact these sources and inquire if they would be willing and able to testify in State proceedings against KASPER at Clinton on Nov. 5, 1956.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8-29-83 BY SP7MAC/PMC

ALDEN

END

- 3 - Bureau (105-423395) (Air Mail)
- 2 - Birmingham (105-375) (Air Mail)
- 1 - Washington Field (100-33226) (info.) (Air Mail)
- 1 - Knoxville (105-122)

TAS/IDH/AJG

(7)

Mr. Belmont

CC: MR. BELMONT
AND CHIEF OF BUREAU
FROM INTEL DIVISIONApproved: SA/93
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

| | |
|--------------|-------|
| Mr. Tolson | _____ |
| Mr. Nichols | _____ |
| Mr. Boardman | _____ |
| Mr. Belmont | _____ |
| Mr. Mohr | _____ |
| Mr. Parsons | _____ |
| Mr. Rosen | _____ |
| Mr. Tamm | _____ |
| Mr. Trotter | _____ |
| Mr. Nease | _____ |
| Tele. Room | _____ |
| Mr. Holloman | _____ |
| Miss Gandy | _____ |

Beaufort
WFO

RECORDED-16

100-423395-231

11 OCT 22 1956

Old
TIN

Memo Belmont to Boardman 10-23-56
CFC
teletype to Knoxville + Birmingham 10-23-56
let to AG & Tompkins 10-23-56

cc - Boardman
Belmont
Williams

Assistant Attorney General
William F. Tompkins

October 24, 1956

RECORDED-16

Director, FBI

100-423395-231

WHITE CITIZENS' COUNCILS
OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

Reference is made to previous memoranda in which you were furnished information concerning the activities of John Kasper, executive secretary of the captioned organization.

The Knoxville Office of this Bureau has advised that the United States Attorney in Knoxville informed that office he received a letter from Walter E. Fisher, Assistant Attorney General of Tennessee, inquiring as to the availability of any Federal agents who might testify concerning statements made by John Kasper on September 13, 1956, at Birmingham, Alabama. This information is desired in connection with the state action against Kasper scheduled for November 5, 1956, at Clinton, Tennessee.

Previously the United States Attorney requested the identity of witnesses who could testify to statements made by Kasper on September 13, 1956, in Birmingham. This request was made in connection with possible action to revoke Kasper's bond for contempt. Pursuant to this request the names of Ernest Hardin, employee of the "Birmingham News," and Harold Fincher and J. B. Jones, both detectives with the Birmingham Police Department, were furnished the United States Attorney as willing witnesses. The United States Attorney advised the Knoxville Office he does not now contemplate any action against Kasper regarding the revocation of the bond and, therefore, does not contemplate the use of these three individuals. The United States Attorney advised he intends to inform Assistant Attorney General Fisher that so far as he knows there are no Federal agents available to testify; however, he wondered if Hardin, Fincher and Jones might be willing and available for testimony in state court against Kasper.

COMM - FBI
OCT 24 1956
MAILED 30

Tolson _____
Nichols _____
Boardman _____
Belmont _____
Mason _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Nease _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

100-423395

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8-29-83 BY SP7MAC/PMC

YELLOW:

See memo Belmont to Boardman, 10/23/56, same caption, CFW:gft.

CFW:gft
(6)

48 OCT 1 1956

Handwritten signatures and initials:
mmv
abw
JPC
GFW
old

Letter to Assistant Attorney General
William F. Tompkins

The availability and willingness of these three individuals to testify on November 5, 1956, are being determined and the results will be furnished the United States Attorney in Knoxville. The Department will also be advised promptly upon receipt of this information.

F B I

Date: 11/5/56

Transmit the following message via

AIRTEL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

From SAC, NORFOLK (105-292)

To: DIRECTOR, FBI

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 8-29-83 BY SP7MAC/PMC

WHITE CITIZENS' COUNCILS OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IS - X

b6
b7C
b7D

[redacted] PSI, Norfolk Office, advised SA HARRY L. MCCARTHY on 10/22/56 that he had met JOHN KASPER and had taken him to [redacted] on

10/15/56. [redacted] said he had tried to get KASPER drunk but that KASPER was a moderate drinker and would not drink to excess. He said that KASPER did not seem to be remorseful over the recent violence at Clinton, Tenn., but KASPER did not want to go to prison as a result of his part in the violence at Clinton. [redacted] informed that KASPER said he obtained money to support his activities from "free will donations of citizens." [redacted] said that KASPER told him that the people of Clinton, Tenn., had put up his bond at Clinton by listing their homes as bond for his, KASPER's, subsequent appearance at Clinton, Tenn. [redacted] said that KASPER told him if he went to prison, he would come out as a martyr and use that status to further his work.

He stated that KASPER said he did not see any way to continue segregation without a Klan type organization. [redacted] said that he felt KASPER's next step would be underground, either in the Ku Klux Klan or in some similar type organization.

[redacted] continued that one CHARLES MC CALL, who indicated he was employed by the Federal Government and who was only three or four months away from retirement, had been associating with KASPER and that he had met MC CALL with KASPER. MC CALL said he was a former Klansman in Alabama who had resigned from the Klan and then, as Attorney General of Alabama, prosecuted Klansmen. [redacted] did not know why MC CALL was associating with KASPER but added that

- 3 - Bureau (100-423395) (Registered Mail)
- 2 - Washington Field (105-33226) (Registered Mail)
- 1 - Knoxville (info) (Registered Mail)
- 2 - Norfolk (105-292) [redacted]

HLM:ajd

(8)

Mr. Belmont

EX-126

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

97 NOV 16 1956

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following message via _____

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

From SAC,

To:

NF 105-292

b6
b7C
b7D

KASPER seemed to trust MC CALL. [] did not know what branch of the Federal Government employed Mc CALL.

Nothing has come to the attention of the Norfolk Office to indicate that there are any Chapters of the White Citizens Councils in the Norfolk area. Contact will be maintained with PSI [] and if any additional information pertaining to White Citizens Councils is obtained, it will be sent to the Bureau and appropriate offices.

RUC.

HOSTENY

END

CC: MR. BELMONT
AND SUPERVISOR
DOM. INTELL. DIVISION

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

F B I

Date: 11-9-56

Transmit the following message via AIR-TELAIR MAIL
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, KNOXVILLE

WHITE CITIZENS' COUNCILS OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, *Barrington*
IS-X

On this date, Criminal Judge D. L. HUTSON, Clinton, Tenn., continued the trial in which JOHN KASPER is being tried on local charges of sedition and inciting to riot at Clinton, Tenn., until 11-19-56.

END

ALDEN

8-29-83 SP7MAC/PMC

Mr. Belmont

RECORDED-35

100-423395-243

- 3 - Bureau (100-423395)
- 1 - Washington Field (100-33226)
- 1 - Knoxville (105-122)

HES:idh
(5)

EX-127

Approved: *M*
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

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|--------------|-------|
| Mr. Tolson | _____ |
| Mr. Nichols | _____ |
| Mr. Boardman | _____ |
| Mr. Belmont | _____ |
| Mr. Mohr | _____ |
| Mr. Nease | _____ |
| Mr. Rosen | _____ |
| Mr. Tamm | _____ |
| Mr. Trotter | _____ |
| Tele. Room | _____ |
| Mr. Holloman | _____ |
| Miss Gandy | _____ |

F B I

Date: 11/20/56

Transmit the following message via AIRTELAIR MAIL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

From SAC, KNOXVILLE

To: DIRECTOR, FBI AND SAC WFO

AIRTELWHITE CITIZENS COUNCILS OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
IS - X.

On this date, 11/20/56, JOHN KASPER was acquitted of local charges on which he was being tried at Clinton, Tennessee.

As requested, a report will be forwarded to the Bureau 11/30/56, concerning the trial.

ALDEN

END

- 3 - Bureau (100-423395)
2 - WFO (105-33226)
1 - Knoxville (105-122)

HES/AJG
(6)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8-29-83 BY SP7MAC/PMC

Mr. Belmont

RECORDED - 70

100-423395-248

EX-117

18 NOV 23 1956

Approved: SR/ps

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

M

Per

| | |
|--------------|-------|
| Mr. Tolson | _____ |
| Mr. Nichols | _____ |
| Mr. Boardman | _____ |
| Mr. Belmont | _____ |
| Mr. Mohr | _____ |
| Mr. Parsons | _____ |
| Mr. Rosen | _____ |
| Mr. Tamm | _____ |
| Mr. Trotter | _____ |
| Mr. Nease | _____ |
| Tele. Room | _____ |
| Mr. Holloman | _____ |
| Miss Gandy | _____ |

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-423395)

DATE: November 23, 1956

FROM : SAC, Memphis (105-207)

SUBJECT: WHITE CITIZENS COUNCIL OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IS - X

AIR 6

Rebu air-tel September 17, 1956 to Knoxville,
Memphis and Birmingham.

Referenced air-tel instructed this office to alert informants and sources to promptly advise of any information regarding the alleged plans of JOHN KASPER, Executive Secretary of captioned organization, to set up a state organization in Tennessee.

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On September 18, 1956, [] a Panel Source of this office, who is extremely active in local pro-segregation groups, advised SAS WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE and JOSEPH H. KEARNEY, JR. that he had no information relative to the intentions of KASPER to set up an organization in the state. It is noted that [] is extremely active in the Tennessee Federation for Constitutional Government and has contacts throughout the state and would logically be in a position to obtain information of such a nature.

[] was again contacted by the above Agents on September 19, 1956 but had no further information regarding this matter.

b7D

On October 24, 1956, [] advised SA FRANCIS W. NORWOOD that he had no information whatsoever regarding KASPER or the White Citizens Council of the District of Columbia.

On October 24, 1956, [] Prospective Panel Source of this office who is active in the Pro-Southerners, and who has volunteered considerable information to this office, advised the above Agents that he had no information regarding the above organization.

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b7C
b7D

- 2- Bureau(100-423395) RM
- 1- Birmingham(info) RM
- 1- Knoxville(105-122)(info) RM
- 1- Washington Field Office(100-33226)(info) RM
- 1- Memphis(105-207)

JHK:FJ

(6)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8-30-83 BY SP7MAC/PMC

RECORDED-68

100-423395-247

NOV 26 1956

EX-118 EXED-68

60 NOV 28 1956

0-176 W.F.A.

Simp

12-3-18
CFW

F64

IN

Me#105-207

Letter to Bureau Re: WHITE CITIZENS COUNCIL OF
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IS - X

11-23-56

On November 9, 1956, [redacted]

~~Respective~~ Panel Source [redacted]

[redacted] advised SA KEARNEY that she is the Secretary and Office Manager of the Pro-Southerners in Memphis. She stated that her only contact and, as far as she knows, the only contact of her organization with the pro-segregation activities at Clinton, Tennessee and captioned organization is the following:

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b7D

[redacted] stated that she had no knowledge of any present intention of JOHN KASPER of the Seaboard White Citizens Councils or the White Citizens Council of Washington, D. C. to come to West Tennessee or other parts of Tennessee. She displayed to SA KEARNEY a form letter dated October 15, 1956 on the letterhead of the Seaboard White Citizens Councils, 360 M Street, NW, Washington, D. C., which identified KASPER as being the Executive Secretary of that group. This letter mentioned KASPER's activities at Clinton, Tennessee and asked for donations. It is noted that this letter was highly critical of the present national administration and referred to the President as being "the imbecile in the White House." The letter referred to the President several times as "Ike" without capitalizing the name.

[redacted] stated further that the Pro-Southerners have received several letters from a SYBLE DAVIS, Clinton, asking for donations to assist the white people in Clinton to send their children to non-segregated schools. The letters identified DAVIS as residing at 813 Medaris Street, Clinton. She stated that the P-S made two contributions to Mr. DAVIS' group in the amount of \$35.00 and \$60.00, respectively. Regarding the letter from KASPER, however, she stated that Dr. JAMES FRANKLIN, National Chairman of the P-S, would not even read it at the P-S meetings because of the bitter tone in which it was written.

Investigation is continuing in this matter and the Bureau and interested offices will be kept advised.

FBI

Date: 11/28/56

Transmit the following message via AIRTEL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

AIRMAIL

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Mr. Tolson | |
| Mr. Nichols | |
| Mr. Boardman | |
| Mr. Belmont | |
| Mr. Mohr | |
| Mr. Parsons | |
| Mr. Rosen | |
| Mr. Tamm | |
| Mr. Winterrowd | |
| Tele. Room | |
| Mr. Holloman | |
| Miss Gandy | |

TO: DIRECTOR FBI

FROM: SAC KNOXVILLE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 8-29-83 BY SP7MAC/PMC

RE: TENNESSEE WHITE CITIZENS' COUNCILS
IS - X

Enclosed with this communication are clippings from the Knoxville News Sentinels of 11/27/56 and 11/28/56 concerning integration at the Clinton, Tenn. High School.

In addition to the information contained in the clippings, D. J. BRITTAIN, Jr., principal of the Clinton High School, advised SA HERBERT E. SHRIDER on 11/28/56 that since the return of JOHN KASPER to the Clinton area and his acquittal on State charges he has noticed a definite trend among the student body in the direction of making attendance at the Clinton High School as unpleasant as possible for the Negroes. He advised that KASPER has formed a Tennessee White Youth Council composed of persons of high school age, whom he feels are the ringleaders in molesting the Negroes. BRITTAIN stated the activities take the forms of throwing small stones and eggs at the Negroes while they are en route to school; of attempting to start a fight with Negroes in the halls; of kicking them on the shins; throwing books and spilling ink on the clothing and books. He advised these activities have made attendance at the school intolerable for the Negroes, that some of the Negro students and the parents of some of the Negro students have requested his permission to leave the school temporarily and he has granted this permission.

2 ENCLOSURE

BRITTAIN stated the Negroes are unable or refuse to identify White students who molested them.

100-423395-1
NOT RECORDED
188 DEC 5 1956

BRITTAIN pointed out that today there are no colored students in attendance at the high school, that some of them have requested his advice concerning their attending a colored school in Knoxville and he does not know whether or not any of the colored students will return to the Clinton High School.

ALDEN

Mr. Belmont

6 NOV 29 1956

END

ENCLOSURE

3 - Bureau (100-423395) (Enc. 2)

Approved: [Signature] Special Agent in ChargeHES:mlc
(4)1 - Knoxville (105-122)
Sent [Signature] M Per [Signature] INT

ORIGINAL FILED IN 100-423395-24

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

| | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| REPORTING OFFICE KNOXVILLE | OFFICE OF ORIGIN WASHINGTON FIELD | DATE 11/29/56 | INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 11/9, 20, 23, 26, 27/56 |
| TITLE OF CASE WHITE CITIZENS' COUNCILS OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA | | REPORT MADE BY HERBERT E. SHRIDER | TYPED BY mlc |
| | | CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - X ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 8-29-83 BY SP7MAC/PMC | |

SYNOPSIS:

FREDERICK JOHN KASPER indicted 9/24/56 Clinton, Tenn., on charges sedition, inciting to riot. On 11/20/56 KASPER found not guilty of above charges.

AGENCY _____
REQ. REC'D _____
DATE FORW. _____
HOW FORW. _____
BY _____

DETAILS: **AT CLINTON, TENNESSEE:**

On 11/23/56 PHIL MASON, Anderson County Criminal Court Clerk, advised that dockets numbers 7448 and 7449 reflect that on 9/24/56 an Anderson County Grand Jury returned a true bill charging FREDERICK JOHN KASPER with a two count violation of sedition. He stated that bond was set at \$1000.00 on each count and trial was set for 11/5/56. He advised that the Criminal Court Minute Book, #3, reflects on pages 514, 515, and 516, that the Anderson County Court met on 11/5/56 to try KASPER on charges of sedition, inciting to riot; that the trial continued on 11/5, 7, 8, 9, 18, 20/56 and that on the latter date KASPER was found not guilty.

| | | |
|---|----------------------------|--|
| APPROVED <i>[Signature]</i> COPIES MADE | SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE | DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW |
| 6 - Bureau (100-423395) (REGISTERED MAIL) | | 100-423395-253 RECORDED - 25 INDEXED - 25 17 DEC 3 1956 <i>[Signature]</i> <i>McGowan</i> |
| 2 - Washington Field (100-33226) (REGISTERED MAIL) | | |
| 3 - Knoxville (105-122) | | |
| COPIES DESTROYED | | |

211 OCT 28 1963
AGENCY *Comptroller & C. Chicago, G-2, ONI, OSI, Secret Service*
REQ. REC'D
DATE FORW. *12-6-56*
HOW FORW. *R/S*
BY *CFW* **DEC 11 1956**

KX 105-122

On 11/26/56 WALTER FISCHER, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, 19th Judicial District, advised he represented the State in the proceedings described above. He advised that the trial was recessed on 11/6/56 because that was election day and was recessed from 11/8/56 to 11/19/56 because of prior commitments of Judge D. L. HUTSON. He stated that the case went to the jury at approximately 4:00 p.m. on 11/20/56 and around 45 minutes later the jury returned a verdict of not guilty. FISCHER explained that the Tennessee charge of inciting to riot requires that the State show that the defendant's acts, words, speeches or conduct tended to provoke a riot or a breach of the peace. He advised that the charge of sedition is similar to the charge of inciting to riot, but the acts must be directed toward producing a break-down of law enforcement or any agency of the government. He explained that both counts are misdemeanors and that maximum penalty is \$1000.00 fine and/or confinement for 11 months and 29 days on each count.

FISCHER stated that KASPER was defended by J. BENJAMIN SIMMONS, an Attorney from Washington, D. C. He stated that KASPER attempted to obtain legal assistance locally, but could find no attorney who would represent him.

FISCHER stated that the State proved that when KASPER came to Clinton he contacted an individual whom he requested to assist in the picketing of the Clinton High School. The proof showed that KASPER advised that the picketing would be to show opposition to the integration of the Clinton High School. FISCHER stated the witness testified that he told KASPER that opposition was useless inasmuch as the question had been settled, whereupon KASPER pointed out that if our forefathers had felt that way the United States would still be a part of the British Empire. The witness then testified he advised KASPER that he wanted no part of a revolution.

FISCHER stated the State produced several witnesses who were present at a meeting in Clinton prior to the opening of school when FISCHER, the Clinton Mayor, and several other persons met in the office of the Clinton Courier, a local newspaper, and explained to KASPER the background and the provisions of the court order which required integration of the

KX 105-122

Clinton High School. These witnesses testified KASPER then stated the will of the people is greater than the decision of the Supreme Court, that the people are not required to conform with the dictates of the government when they do not agree with these dictates. The witnesses testified KASPER demanded the resignation of the local school principal and all other public officials who felt obligated to enforce the court ruling against the will of the people.

FISCHER stated he realizes that the above testimony was circumstantial; however, he stated the State then introduced testimony through H. A. FINCHER, a Birmingham, Alabama, detective, which proved that KASPER made a speech in Birmingham, in which he stated he had gone to Clinton to cause trouble because of the integration of the school of Clinton, that the people needed a leader in their rebellion against court, that local law enforcement and local officials were corrupt and he had provided that leadership and intended to return to Clinton to continue the fight. FISCHER stated that no testimony refuting these statements was introduced and he, therefore, feels the failure to refute constitutes an admission of guilt to the charges on which KASPER was being tried.

FISCHER stated he presented witnesses describing, and photographs depicting, the violence which necessitated the sending of the Tennessee Highway Patrolmen and the Tennessee National Guard into Clinton following KASPER'S arrival and speeches there; that witnesses testified to KASPER'S leading a group to the Clinton High School, his attempting to enter the building while school was in progress, and his demanding principal D. J. BRITTAIN, Jr., either exclude Negroes from the school or resign; and that witnesses testified concerning KASPER distributing anti-integration literature in the Clinton area.

FISCHER stated KASPER testified that he came to Clinton after he was contacted in Virginia by an unidentified resident of Anderson County, who asked him to come to Clinton and help fight integration in the public schools. KASPER testified that in his opinion the decision of the

Supreme Court concerning integration does not reflect the will of the people and that this decision is evidence of Communistic attitude on the part of the Supreme Court. FISCHER stated KASPER denied ever advocating any violence or of saying that the will of the people is greater than the government. According to FISCHER, KASPER claimed his statement concerning the removal of public officials has been misinterpreted and what he advocates is removal of public officials whose thinking does not reflect the will of the people, by electing to positions held by those officials, persons whose thinking is in agreement with the majority. KASPER testified that his purpose in coming to Clinton was to help the people in the fight against integration and to offer legal advice in this fight. FISCHER stated KASPER claimed that those persons who were responsible for his contempt conviction in the U. S. District Court at Knoxville had perjured themselves.

FISCHER stated that the only "outside" witnesses who testified in KASPER's behalf were Retired Admiral CROMMELIN from Alabama and Judge RAULSTON SCHOOLFIELD from Chattanooga, Tennessee. CROMMELIN testified that he met KASPER in Washington after seeing some patriotic books in KASPER'S bookstore. He stated KASPER had come to Alabama and had assisted him in his unsuccessful bid for nomination to the U. S. Senate. FISCHER stated CROMMELIN testified he regards KASPER as a loyal American.

Judge SCHOOLFIELD'S testimony consisted of a dissertation on his opinion that the decision of the U. S. Supreme Court concerning integration does not reflect the will of the people.

FISCHER stated that in addition to the above witnesses, at least fifty persons testified that they had heard KASPER speak at Clinton, that they had gone to the meeting at which he spoke, seeking legal advice on methods of halting integration, that they did not remember what they heard, but did recall they never heard KASPER discuss integration of the Clinton High School, that KASPER "didn't never

KX 105-122

advocate no violence", that "the will of the people should be the law", that they needed outside help because all of the local officials are corrupt, and that there was no violence at any meeting at which KASPER was present and that public demonstrations against integration of the Clinton High School would have occurred whether or not KASPER had come to Clinton.

FISCHER pointed out that in many instances testimony of these witnesses was in agreement almost word for word with the testimony of the preceding witnesses.

FISCHER stated that none of KASPER'S defense witnesses are persons of prominence in any field in the local area.

FISCHER stated that it is his opinion that Judge HUTSON is against integration of the public schools and that his feeling was apparent in his charge to the jury. FISCHER stated he was disappointed that the charge did not point out that KASPER'S inability to deny his statements made at Birmingham must be considered as an admission that he had made those statements.

FISCHER stated that he has been advised that on the first ballot the jury voted eleven to one for acquittal and that after 45 minutes deliberation all jurors agreed on acquittal.

FISCHER stated he was disappointed in the verdict in view of the fact that he had worked with the jury through several cases and he had found that the jury was composed of intelligent, honest men, whom he felt would return a fair verdict based on the evidence submitted.

AT KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE:

An article appearing in the Knoxville Journal of 11/8/56 concerning the trial of KASPER at Clinton reflects KASPER testified that he did not say that the will of the people was supreme to the law. He points out he testified

KX 105-122

that what he said is that the common law is based on the custom of people and the law should adhere to the custom. KASPER denied, according to this article, that he was interested in getting the Negroes out of school or of getting principal BRITTAIN out of school. This article states KASPER also denied that the residents of Clinton could force the city officials to resign. This article also reflects testimony by Detective FINCHER from Alabama, in which FINCHER read from his notes taken at a speech made by KASPER in Birmingham as follows: "the people cannot depend on courts any more" and "we have gone as far as we possibly can legally. Now is the time to fight and it may take bloodshed".

An article appearing in the Knoxville News-Sentinel on 11/10/56 reflects the testimony of a defense witness who stated that KASPER had said "the will of the people is greater than the law". This witness stated he believed KASPER meant people could change unsuitable legislation through elections and petitions rather than in disobedience to the prevailing law. This article states a second witness testified he believed there would have been more violence in Clinton if KASPER had not come. The witness testified "Mr. Kasper gave us legal suggestions, he was trying to get us to organize legally". This article continues saying numerous defense witnesses stated KASPER never advocated any violence in his speeches.

This article attributes testimony to KASPER as follows: "I came here because I was primarily interested in states' rights, local control of local affairs and against centralization of government". This testimony continues, "I felt there was some kind of local corruption here". The article states KASPER was of this opinion because authorities refused to find ways of keeping the school segregated after a U. S. District Court ordered integration.

An article appearing in the Clinton Courier of 11/8/56 reflects testimony of City Policeman JESS BRADEN, who testified "All I know is that he would talk to them (demonstrators) and then they'd start up again. After he would speak the crowd wouldn't listen to what we (officers) told them". BRADEN also testified he heard KASPER say "Who believes in the law? We're the law. We make the law".

This article continues stating that two U.S.

KX 105-122

Deputy Marshals testified they heard KASPER tell the crowd in front of the courthouse "You people don't have to pay any attention to this because the will of the people is the law". They testified he was referring to some papers which had just been served on him and which demanded his presence in court in Knoxville the following day.

An article appearing in the Knoxville News-Sentinel of 11/20/56 again describes KASPER'S trial and describes the testimony of a witness who stated that he saw no violence at Clinton except that it was caused when auxiliary policemen shot teargas into a milling crowd just prior to the arrival of 100 highway patrolmen.

An article appearing in the Clinton Courier of 11/21/56 reflects that a crowded courtroom broke into loud cheers and applause when the foreman of the jury announced KASPER had been found not guilty of the charges for which he was being tried. This article continues stating that after the trial KASPER told newsmen that his immediate plans are to set up State headquarters of the White Citizens' Council in Clinton, although his national headquarters will continue to be in Washington.

- P -

KX 105-122

LEADS

KNOXVILLE DIVISION

AT CLINTON, TENNESSEE:

Will continue discreet inquiry concerning the activities of JOHN KASPER and the White Citizens' Council of Anderson County.

REFERENCES

Bureau airtel to Knoxville 11/7/56.
Knoxville airtel to Bureau 11/20/56.

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE